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HYBRIDISED PIGMENT

This invention relates to pigments and methods of manufacture thereof.

Inorganic pigments, particularly ultramarine pigments are well known for their unique shades and clean bright appearance. However there is a disadvantage that the colour is weak in comparison to organic pigments. Ultramarine blue has a unique shade but in blends the clean appearance of the pigment is lost. Higher loadings are necessary for applications such as plastics, inks and paints. Ultramarine pigments are known to be unstable and decompose under acid conditions. However it has been surprisingly discovered that addition of ultramarine after acidification of the basic dye solution leads to a hybridised pigment without decomposition of the ultramarine component.

According to the present invention, a method of making a pigment composition comprises the step of making a pigment selected from:

- (i) a ferrocyanide derivative substituted with one or more cationic dye groups in the presence of a suspension of a zeolite pigment in an acidified solution; and
- (ii) a derivative of a complex acid selected from the group consisting of: silicomolybdate, phosphomolybdate, phosphotungstate, phosphotungstomolybdate and mixtures thereof substituted with one or more cationic dye groups, in the presence of a suspension of a zeolite pigment in an acidified solution.

When a ferrocyanide derivative is employed, the ferrocyanide derivative may have the formula (1):



wherein M is a transition metal selected from a copper, nickel or vanadium in a reduced state; Z is a zeolite structure, preferably a zeolite pigment or calcined clay, more preferably an ultramarine base;

D is a cationic dye;

and p, q and r are integers from 1 to 3 wherein the total of $p + q + r = 4$

When a complex acid derivative or mixtures thereof are employed, the complex acid derivative may have the formula (2),

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wherein A is a complex acid;

Z and D are as defined in formula 1; and q and r are integers from 1 to 7 wherein $q + r$ is 4 to 7.

Alternatively q and r are integers from 1 to 3 and $q+r = 4$

According to a preferred aspect of the present invention a method of making a pigment composition comprises the step of making a ferrocyanide derivative preferably copper ferrocyanide optionally substituted with one or more cationic dyes, and mixtures thereof, in the presence of a zeolite pigment or calcined clay in an acidified solution.

The zeolite pigment is preferably selected from ultramarine blue, pink, violet or green, especially ultramarine blue. Alternatively, if a pure bright colour outside the ultramarine zeolite range is desired, an activated or calcined clay can be used.

Formation of the dye comprising the copper ferrocyanide pigment in the presence of a zeolite pigment gives a unique product which exhibits several advantages, including improved colour strength and opacity. A required degree of polarity, for example hydrophobicity or hydrophilicity may be provided. Polar or linking groups may be provided to facilitate molecular grafting or bonding. Compatibility with application media such as organic or aqueous solvents or oils is enhanced.

The ferrocyanide derivatives which may be employed can be functionalised with one or more of the following classes of dyes (D):

- 1) Diarylmethane type dyes such as Basic yellow 37
- 2) Azomethane type dyes such as Basic Yellow 65
- 3) Monoazo type dyes such as Basic orange 59
- 4) Xanthene type dyes including all Rhodamine dyes
- 5) Triarylmethane type dyes such as Victoria Blue
- 6) Coumarin type dyes such as Basic yellow 40

More specifically the dye (D) may be selected from:

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basic blue 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 26, 41, 54 and 162;
 basic violet 1, 3, 10, 14, 16 and 53;
 basic green 1 and 4;
 basic orange 2 and 21;
 basic brown 1 and 4;
 basic red 7, 13, 14, 18, 22, 29, 46, and 51;
 basic yellow 2, 5, 11, 13, 19, 24, 28, 29, 30, 37, 40 and 51;
 basic red 1, 1:1, 7, 11, 13, 14, 18, 22, 29, 46, and 51;
 and mixtures thereof.

Alternative complex polyacids (A in formula 2) include :-

- i) silicon, molybdenum, and / or tungsten (SMT) complexes.
- ii) phosphorus, molybdenum, and / or tungsten (PTM) complexes.

The proportions may be as follows:

- 1) SMT series :- $\text{SiO}_2 : \text{MO}_3$ is about 1:(7-12) depending on the quality requirement.
- 2) PTM series: - $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5 : \text{MO}_3$ is about 1:(16-24) depending on the quality requirement.

In the above ratios, M represents the combined molecular total of molybdenum and tungsten.

The polyacids normally exist as a mixture of simple and complex acids, such as H_2MoO_4 , H_2WO_4 , H_3PO_4 , H_2SiO_3 , $\text{H}_4\text{Si}_2\text{Mo}_{24}\text{O}_{78}$, $\text{H}_7\text{Mo}_{12}\text{P}_2\text{O}_{42}$, $\text{H}_6\text{Mo}_{18}\text{P}_2\text{O}_{76}$, $\text{H}_6\text{Mo}_{24}\text{P}_2\text{O}_{80}$ etc and the mixtures thereof.

Preferred complex acids may be selected from H_2MoO_4 , H_2WO_4 , H_3PO_4 , H_2SiO_2 , $\text{H}_4\text{Si}_2\text{Mo}_{24}\text{O}_{78}$, $\text{H}_7\text{Mo}_{12}\text{P}_2\text{O}_{42}$, $\text{H}_6\text{Mo}_{18}\text{P}_2\text{O}_{76}$, $\text{H}_6\text{Mo}_{24}\text{P}_2\text{O}_{80}$ and mixtures thereof.

In preferred methods a resin is added to the dyestuff to encapsulate the particles to improve surface properties and to reduce bleeding. Any alkali soluble abietic acid derivative can be used, preferably pentaerythritol modified resins such as Pentalyn K1626

A surfactant may be added to aid separation, settling and dispersion of the dyestuff. Nonionic surfactants may be used, e.g. Disperse Ayl (trade mark of COGNIS) or Coloursperse

188A (trade mark of ICI).

The following quantities may be used in preferred embodiments of the invention

zeolite about 5 - 99%, preferably 70 - 99%

resin about 1 - 20%, preferably 1 - 10%.

The sum of ferrocyanide, complex acid, metal and dye may be:

about 1 – 95%, preferably 1 - 40%

Percentages and proportions in this specification are by weight unless indicated otherwise. Percentages and proportions are selected from the ranges disclosed to total 100%.

The solution of one or more dyes is preferably acidified to about pH 3.0 to 3.6. An organic acid, preferably a carboxylic acid, more preferably acetic or sulphamic acid may be used.

According to a second aspect of the present invention a pigment comprises a zeolite structure having absorbed thereon a ferrocyanide derivative substituted with one or more cationic dye groups.

Pigments in accordance with this invention find application in inks, coatings, polymers, including polyolefins, artistic materials including crayons and cosmetics.

The invention is further described by means of example but not in any limitative sense.

Example 1 Ultramarine blue CF complex.

Glacial acetic acid (4.0g) was added to water (2200ml) at 70°C in a 4L Pyrex beaker. Methyl violet 2B (0.5g) was added to the stirred solution. Victoria Blue BO (5.0g) was then added to the stirred solution. The mixture was then stirred well and the pH adjusted to pH 3.0 to 3.6 using acetic acid or caustic soda. Once the dye solution was stabilised, Ultramarine blue (100.0g) was then added with stirring and the pH was adjusted to 3.6 \pm 0.1. The temperature was raised to 90°C, and 7.0g of copper sulphate dissolved in 300 ml of hot water at about 75-80°C was added. The complexing agent, in this case is an alkaline solution of sodium

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ferrocyanide stabilised with sodium sulphite. The sodium ferrocyanide solution was prepared by the dissolution of the following chemicals namely caustic soda (1.8g), sodium ferrocyanide (3.4g), followed by sodium sulphite (2.0g) in 400ml of water, and the resulting solution was heated to 70-80°C. The complex solution was then gradually titrated into the dye / copper mix at a rate of 8ml / minute. The end point was determined by spotting the precipitating dye mix on a No5 filter paper and checking for any excess dye by observing the intensity of the bleed. Trace of bleed was permitted as it is the migration of finer fractions of the pigment particles. Once the titration was complete, the pH was adjusted to 5.5, and the contents of the beaker was heated to 90-95°C and kept at this temperature range for 30 minutes to optimise the crystallisation of the pigment particles. After heat treatment process the solution was cooled to <70°C in preparation for resin treatment. Caustic soda pearl (3.8g) was stirred and resin Pentalyn K1626 (trademark of Hercules) (10.0g) was added with stirring and the solution was heated to 70°C – 80°C in order to prepare a clear resin solution. Finally the resin solution was added to the pigment slurry over a period of 20 minutes. A surfactant (Disperse Ayd W33- (1.0g) in water (50 ml) was added to the precipitated pigment slurry. The dispersion was then stirred for about 10 minutes and agitation was turned off. The liquor was allowed to settle for 2 hours, decanted, and filtered using No5 filter paper on a Buchner funnel. The filtered sample was dried in a convection oven at 70°C. The dried sample was milled, sieved and made into a dispersion. The dispersion was further evaluated for colour and other quality parameters.

Example 2 Ultramarine pink CF Complex.

Glacial acetic acid (10.0 g) was added to water (2000ml) at 70°C in a 4l beaker. Rhodamine 6G (Basic red 1) 5.0g was added to the beaker with constant agitation at about 200 RPM. The solution mix was stirred to maintain the temperature and the pH was adjusted to 3.0 – 3.6 using acetic acid or caustic soda depending on the resultant pH. Once the dye solution is stabilised, Ultramarine pink (100.0g) was added slowly maintaining the constant agitation, and the pH was adjusted to 3.6+/- 0.1. The mix was stirred for about 20 minutes, and the temperature was raised to 90°C. In to the heated solution added (5.5g) of copper sulphate dissolved in 300ml of hot water at about 75 – 80°C. The complexing agent in this case was an alkaline solution of sodium ferrocyanide stabilised with sodium sulphite. The sodium ferrocyanide solution was prepared by the dissolution of the following chemicals namely,

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caustic soda (3.6g), sodium ferrocyanide (10.0g), followed by sodium sulphite (5.0g) in 300ml water, and the resulting solution was heated to 70-80°C. The complex solution was then gradually titrated into the dye / copper / UMP mix at a pace of 8+/-1 ml per minute. The end point was determined by spotting the precipitating dye mix on a No5 filter paper and checking for any excess dye by observing the intensity of the bleed. Trace of bleed is permitted, as it is the migration of finer fractions of the pigment particles. Once the titration was complete, the pH was adjusted to 5.5, and the contents of the beaker was heated to 90°C+/-2°C and kept at this temperature range for 30 minutes to optimise the crystallisation of the particles. After heat treatment process the solution was cooled to <70°C in preparation for resin treatment. Caustic soda pearl (7.6g) was stirred, and resin Pentayn K1626 (trademark of Hercules) (20.0) was added with stirring and the solution was heated to 70°C – 80°C in order to prepare a clear resin solution. Finally the resin solution was added to the pigment slurry over a period of 20 minutes. A surfactant (Disperse Ayd W33 (2.0ml) was then added to the pigment slurry. The dispersion was then stirred for about 10 minutes and the agitation was turned off. The liquor was allowed to settle for 2 hours, decanted, and filtered on a No5 filter paper using a buchner funnel. Finally the filtered sample was dried on a convection oven at 70°C. The dried sample was milled, sieved, made into a dispersion, and tested for colour and other quality parameters.

Example 3 Yellow Ferrocyanide / calcined clay / Basic yellow 40 complex.

Glacial acetic acid (10.0g) was added to water (2000ml) at 70°C in a 4L beaker. Basic yellow 40 (5.0g) was added to the beaker with constant agitation at 200 RPM. The solution mix was stirred to maintain the temperature and the pH was adjusted to 3.0 – 3.6 using acetic acid and caustic soda depending on the resultant pH. Once the dye solution is stabilised, calcined clay (100.0g) was added slowly maintaining the constant agitation, and the pH was adjusted to 3.6+/- 0.1. The mix was stirred for about 20 minutes, and the temperature was raised to 90°C. In to the heated solution was added (7.0g) of copper sulphate dissolved in 300ml of hot water at about 75 – 80°C. The complexing agent in this case was an alkaline solution of sodium ferrocyanide stabilised with sodium sulphite. The sodium ferrocyanide solution was prepared by the dissolution of the following chemicals, namely, caustic soda (2.0g), sodium ferrocyanide (7.8g), followed by sodium sulphite (2.0g), in 300ml water and the resulting solution was heated to 70 – 80°C. The resulting solution was then gradually titrated in to the dye / copper /

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clay mix at a pace of 8+/- 1 per minute. The end point was determined by spotting the precipitating dye mix on a No5 filter paper and checking for any excess dye by observing the intensity of the bleed. Trace of bleed is permitted, as it is the migration of the finer fractions of pigment particles. Once the titration is complete, the pH was adjusted to 5.5, and the contents of the beaker is heated to 90⁰C+/-2⁰C and kept at this temperature range for 30 minutes to optimise the crystallisation of the particles. After heat treatment process the solution was cooled to <70⁰C in preparation for resin treatment. Caustic soda pearl (3.8g) was stirred in, and resin Pentalyn K1626 (trademark of Hercules) (10.0g) was stirred in and the solution was gently heated to 70 – 80⁰C in order to prepare a clear resin solution. Finally the resin solution was added to pigment slurry over a period of 20 minutes. A surfactant (Disperse Ayd W33 (2.0ml) was then added to the pigment slurry. The dispersion was then stirred for about 10 minutes and the agitation was turned off. The liquor was then allowed to settle for 2 hours, decanted, and filtered on a No5 filter paper using a Buchner funnel. The filtered pigment was then dried in a convection oven at 70⁰C. The dried pigment sample was then milled, sieved, and made into an ink dispersion, and evaluated for colour and other properties.

Example 4 Application Testing

The samples produced in the preceding Examples were evaluated for use in aqueous ink and paint applications using Holliday Pigment Ltd test methods 1.9.9 and 1.9.10 respectively. Shown in the following Tables are the colour characteristics of the pigments produced using the starting substrate as the reference standard.

Table 1 Ink Application Test Method 1.9.9

Pigment	L	a	b	DL	Da	Db	DE	% Str.
UMBlue reference	69.79	2.77	-45.27					
Example 1	45.00	-12.29	-39.32	-24.80	-15.06	5.95	29.61	801.47
UMPink reference	87.21	13.41	-14.31					
Example 2	70.77	55.30	-18.72	-16.44	41.89	-4.41	45.21	1247.05
Clay reference	94.714	1.531	-9.267					
Example 3	94.408	-21.934	53.183	-0.306	-23.465	62.449	66.713	2204.05

Table 2 Paint Application Test Method 1.9.10

Pigment	L	a	b	DL	Da	Db	DE	% Str.
UMBlue reference	68.35	-0.51	-34.64					
Example 1	57.98	-12.68	-35.41	-22.02	-12.17	-0.77	25.17	671.63
UMPink reference	84.25	14.99	-6.41					
Example 2	68.60	43.56	-13.40	-15.65	28.57	-6.99	33.32	642.64
Clay reference	94.08	-0.45	1.156					
Example 3	86.463	-6.696	48.568	-7.585	-6.246	47.412	48.419	3247.67

Test Methods

Summary of Test Method Number 1.9.9

This method is to assess the colour characteristics of pigments for use in aqueous inks and involves preparation of an ink followed by colour measurement after drawdown.

Procedure

This procedure is applicable to both the standard (if available) and sample.

Weigh into a clean and dry 4-oz glass jar the following components.

Quantity	g	% Weight
Joncryl 8085	23.61	47.21
Water	23.61	47.21
Pigment on test	2.5	5
Matexil DA-AC	0.21	0.42
Dapro 1760	0.08	0.16
Glass Beads 3mm	50	100

Wrap some PTFE tape around the cap thread of the glass jar and secure lid.

Place test pigment and standard jar into the appropriate Scandex box and place in the Scandex and close the door.

Select program T2 on the Scandex control panel and shake for 3x10 minutes.

After thirty minutes remove from the Scandex and assess the jars for leaks and dispersion.

Loosen the lid, but do not remove, and allow contents to cool for up to 30 minutes.

Set the automatic draw down apparatus to speed 2 and draw down the paint onto matt Lenetta card using the K1 and K3 bars.

Note: Stop the machine before the bar runs off the end of the paper.

The K bars should be cleaned immediately in water.

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Allow the sample cards to dry at ambient temperature for 2 hours.

After two hours compare the colour characteristics of the test sample against standard (if available) on the Gretag-Macbeth colorimeter.

Summary of Test Method Number 1.9.10

This method is to assess the colour characteristics of pigments for use in aqueous paint applications. This test involves dispersing the pigment in Dulux Medium base matt paint at 5% loading and measuring colour characteristics against a standard if available.

Procedure

This Procedure is applicable to both the standard (if available) and sample.

Weigh into a clean and dry 100ml plastic pot the following components.

Quantity	g	% Weight
Pigment	2.5	5.0
Dulux Matt Medium base paint	47.5	95
3 mm glass beads	20	40

Place pot in the Flactek mixer. Set the mixer at 3000rpm and 2x1 minute spin cycles. Mix the contents by hand in between 1 minute spins.

Ensure that pigment is fully dispersed.

Set the automatic draw down apparatus to speed 2.5 and draw down the paint onto matt Lenetta card using the K6 bar.

Note: Stop the machine before the bar runs off the end of the paper.

The K6 bar should be cleaned immediately in water.

Allow the sample cards to dry at ambient temperature for 2 hours.

After two hours compare the colour characteristics of the test sample against standard if available on the Gretag-Macbeth colorimeter.